Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, or 17.

2. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, or 17 or a fragment thereof, wherein the fragment is at least 7 amino acid residues in length.

3. (Original) A vector into which the nucleic acid of claim 1 is inserted.

4. (Original) A vector into which the nucleic acid of claim 2 is inserted.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A transformant~~ An isolated cell harboring the nucleic acid of claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A transformant~~ An isolated cell harboring the nucleic acid of claim 2.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A transformant~~ An isolated cell harboring the vector of claim 3.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A transformant~~ An isolated cell harboring the vector of claim 4.

9. (Withdrawn) A substantially purified polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.

10. (Withdrawn) A substantially purified polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 2.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising the steps of culturing the transformant of claim 5 and recovering a polypeptide expressed from the transformant or the culture supernatant thereof.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising the steps of culturing the transformant of claim 6 and recovering a polypeptide expressed from the transformant or the culture supernatant thereof.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for screening for a compound that binds to a polypeptide, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a test sample with the polypeptide of claim 9 or a partial peptide thereof,

(b) detecting a binding activity of the test sample to the polypeptide or the partial peptide thereof, and

(c) selecting a compound comprising the binding activity to the polypeptide or the partial peptide thereof.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for screening for a compound that binds to a polypeptide, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a test sample with the polypeptide of claim 10 or a partial peptide thereof,

(b) detecting a binding activity of the test sample to the polypeptide or the partial peptide thereof, and

(c) selecting a compound comprising the binding activity to the polypeptide or the partial peptide thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) An antibody against the polypeptide of claim 9.

16. (Withdrawn) An antibody against the polypeptide of claim 10.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a hemopoietin receptor protein in a test sample, comprising the steps of: contacting a test sample with the antibody of claim 15; and detecting the presence of an immune complex between the antibody and a hemopoietin receptor protein in the test sample.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a hemopoietin receptor protein in a test sample, comprising the steps of: contacting a test sample with the antibody of claim 16; and detecting the presence of an immune complex between the antibody and a hemopoietin receptor protein in the test sample.

19. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide that hybridizes with the nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 or 16 or the complementary strand thereof and that comprises at least 15 nucleotides.

20. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, or 16.

21. (Previously presented) A vector into which the nucleic acid of claim 20 is inserted.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A transformant~~ An isolated cell harboring the nucleic acid of claim 20.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A transformant~~ An isolated cell harboring the vector of claim 21.

24. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, or 17, with a single amino acid replacement, deletion, insertion, or addition, wherein the protein binds to a hematopoietin factor.

25. (Previously presented) A vector into which the nucleic acid of claim 24 is inserted.

26. (Current Amended) ~~A transformant~~ An isolated cell harboring the nucleic acid of claim 24.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A transformant~~ An isolated cell harboring the vector of claim 25.

28. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising the steps of culturing the transformant of claim 22 and recovering a polypeptide expressed from the transformant or the culture supernatant thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising the steps of culturing the transformant of claim 26 and recovering a polypeptide expressed from the transformant or the culture supernatant thereof.

30. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising the steps of culturing the transformant of claim 23 and recovering a polypeptide expressed from the transformant or the culture supernatant thereof.

31. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising the steps of culturing the transformant of claim 27 and recovering a polypeptide expressed from the transformant or the culture supernatant thereof.